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WILLIAM COWEN IS NAMED NLRB SOLICITOR

The National Labor Relations Board appointed William B. Cowen as Solicitor. The Solicitor is the Board's chief legal officer and advises it on questions of law and policy arising from the Board's administration of the National Labor Relations Act.

Mr. Cowen, who began his legal career as an NLRB field attorney, had been serving since March 2003 as Executive Assistant to Chairman Robert J. Battista. In that position, he was an advisor and personal representative for the Chairman concerning internal and external agency matters.

In announcing the appointment, Chairman Battista said:

I am pleased to announce that the Board has appointed Bill Cowen as Solicitor, a position for which he is eminently qualified. He brings to this position 27 years of labor law experience in both the public and private sectors. Importantly, he understands our statute from the perspective of a career NLRB attorney, having been one for most of his 11 years of government service, as well as that of an attorney engaged in the private practice of law before this agency, which he did for 16 years. As a highly talented attorney with such a broad background in the field, Bill will be a tremendous asset to the Board as Solicitor.

Mr. Cowen served as a Board Member from January 22, 2002 to November 22, 2002 under a recess appointment by President George W. Bush. Previously, he was an attorney and principal of Institutional Labor Advisors, LLC, a company he founded in 1997. He also was a founding member of Cowen and Associates in McLean, VA (1996 - 1998); partner with Coleman, Coxson, Penello, Fogleman & Cowen, P.C. (1992 - 1996); and attorney with Thompson and Hutson (1985 - 1992).

From 1979, right out of law school, until 1985, Mr. Cowen served in various capacities as a career NLRB attorney, including as Counsel to former Board Member Howard Jenkins, Jr.; Field Attorney in Region 8, Cleveland, OH; and attorney on the staff of the General Counsel in the Office of Appeals of the Division of Enforcement Litigation. He also served in temporary assignments to Region 29, Brooklyn, NY, as well as to the Division of Advice and the Office of Representation Appeals in Washington, D.C.

Born in Charlottesville, VA, Mr. Cowen holds a B.A. degree in Mathematics from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH, graduating in 1976, and a Masters of Theological Studies from Wesley Theological Seminary in 2005. He received his J.D. degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland State University in 1979.

Mr. Cowen and his wife, Catrina Yong Cowen, reside in Arlington, Virginia.

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